Workplace safety and health committee selfevaluation checklist - How effective are we?

Use this checklist to help you evaluate your joint health and safety committee's operations. Place a check in the appropriate column beside each item. Check more than one box per item if you wish. To help you do this, have a copy of a recent agenda and minutes, along with terms of reference, ground rules etc.

Structure D/K = Don't Know N/I= Needs Improvement N/A = Not Applicable

Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
Does the committee have agreed terms of reference?						
2. Are committee roles and responsibilities clearly defined? (See L.3)						
3. Is the committee the right size?						
4. Are there at least as many worker representatives						
as employer representatives on the committee?						
5. Does the union select their representatives?						
6. Are all sectors, departments, and all workers						
adequately represented on the committee?						
7. Does the committee always use a clear, written						
agenda? (See CP.3)						
a) Is the agenda set and distributed to individual						
members at least three days before the meeting?						
b) Does the agenda indicate who is responsible for						
particular roles within the meetings?						
c) Does the agenda clearly specify the intended						
purpose of the discussion items?						
d) Does agenda include time limits for each item?						
e) Do the co-chairs set the agenda together?						
8. Does the committee produce clear, action-						
oriented minutes of every meeting? (See CP.13A)						
a) Do the minutes specify who is responsible for						
carrying out committee decisions?						
b) Do minutes specify deadlines for completion of						
activities based on committee decisions?						
c) Do the minutes accurately summarize the						
content of committee discussions?						
d) Are committee meeting notices and minutes						
posted on designated bulletin board(s)?						
e) Is a copy of the committee minutes given to the						
employer/prime contractor?						
f) Are copies of minutes sent to committee mem-						
bers and WSHD within 7 days by employer?						
9. Does the committee report to the "right" person						
representing the employer?						
10. Does the committee receive the necessary						
support from the employer?						





Process - general (For more about this, see Parts B and H.)

Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
Do committee members agree on the basic goals and purposes of the committee?						
2. Does the committee have "ground rules" about the process they use for meetings and other activities?						
3. Do committee members feel free to express them-						
selves honestly and directly during committee meetings?						
4. Are conflicting opinions and points of view treated with respect? (See CP.9)						
5. Do committee members learn from one another?						
6. Does the committee work through problems in a systematic, logical way? (See CP.17)						
a) Do members clearly define the problem and its root causes (what, who, when, where and how)						
before considering solutions? (See CP.16)						
b) Does the committee usually use techniques like brain storming to generate creative ideas?						
c) Does the committee often use flipcharts or white						
boards to display key points for everyone to see?						
d) Does the committee look at a variety of possible						
solutions to problems before selecting the best solution(s)?						
e) Does the committee base selection of priority						
problems and/or solutions on clearly stated criteria? (See CP.6A)						
7. Do the co-chairs work well together to facilitate discussions? (See CP.4)						
8. Do committee members attend most meetings?						
9. Do committee members have alternates in case						
they cannot attend a regularly-scheduled meeting?						
10. Does the committee pay enough attention to the						
social or human relations aspects of group work?						
11. Do all committee members have an opportunity to contribute to the agenda?						
12. Does the committee monitor its own use of time against the agenda during meetings?						
13. Is the whole committee actively involved in all						
major workplace health and safety activities?						
14. Do committee members have adequate time and						
resources (e.g. office space, photocopying,						
clerical support) to carry out their responsibilities?						
15. Are all committee members paid for all the time it						
takes to carry out their responsibilities, including preparation time?						
16. Does the committee meet at least every 3 months?						
17. Does the committee call special meetings when necessary?						
ricocoodi y:						





Process - general

cont'd

Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
18. Does the committee have an orientation session for new members? For new employees? (See CP.14)						
19. Do all committee members get training about their roles, responsibilities and the practicalities of their committee activities?						
20. Do committee members get follow-up training regularly and when new laws or workplace "rules" are introduced?						
21. Does the committee regularly evaluate its work and processes? (with outside help?)						

Process - specific duties

	Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
1.	Does the committee solicit (e.g. survey), receive and deal with complaints or concerns from employees?						
2.	Does the committee protect the anonymity of complainants who request it and the confidentiality of all those whose situations they discuss or review?						
3.	Does the committee report back to people who bring issues to the committee about what has been done?						
4.	Does the committee participate in identifying all six categories of hazards found in the workplace? (See SH.2)						
5.	Does the committee tell all workers when tasks or work are found to be dangerous (unsafe or unhealthy)?						
6.	Does the committee develop and promote prevention measures to deal with all types of hazards? (See SH.13 and SH.2)						
7.	Does the committee check the effectiveness of all prevention measures?						
8.	Does the committee review new equipment, tools, materials, work stations or processes before they are introduced, and make recommendations based on anticipated or known health and safety hazards?						
9.	Does the employer work with the committee to develop and review the workplace health and safety program required by the <i>Act</i> ?						





Process - specific duties cont'd

Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
10. Does the committee develop and promote						
programs to educate and provide information						
about health and safety, particularly WHMIS?						
11. Does the committee always make recommenda-						
tions to the employer, based on their discussions						
about each issue on their plate? (See CP.15)						
12. Does the committee inspect the workplace						
regularly? (See SH.3, 4 and 5)						
13. Do committee members participate in all incident						
and dangerous occurrence investigations?						
(See SH.11)						
14. Does the worker co-chair or a designated replace-						
ment always go with safety and health officers						
(SHOs/inspectors) who come to do inspections or						
investigations?						
15. Does the employer co-chair or a designated						
replacement also go on inspections with SHOs?						
16. Are both co-chairs or their designated representa-						
tives present when SHOs present their decisions/						
reports? 17. Do committee members know about their roles in						
refusals and follow these "rules"? (See L.2)						
18. Does the committee keep records about complaints						
and how they deal with them, as well as other things	1					
they do?						
19. Does the committee regularly use incident, inves-						
tigation and workplace inspection reports, first aid						
records and health and safety statistics to inform						
and support decisions? (See CP.10.)						
20. Does the committee receive monthly, cumula-						
tive quarterly and cumulative annual health and						
safety statistics?						
21. Does the committee review the program,						
WHMIS training, the inventory, etc. regularly, and						
at least as often as legally required?						





Results

Item	Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
1. Does the committee inspect for and deal with all						
types of hazards (See SH.2), specifically:						
a) safety/mechanical?						
b) chemical and mineral?						
c) physical (from energy sources)?						
d) communicable/biological?						
e) ergonomic design?						
f) stressors/work organization?						
2. Are there effective programs about:						
a) WHMIS?						
b) ergonomics?						
c) violence prevention?						
d) dealing with all other hazard categories?						
i) safety/mechanical?						
ii) chemicals and minerals?						
iii) physical?						
iv) communicable/biological?						
v) other stressors/work organization hazards?						
f) toxics use reduction (buying, using and						
producing fewer and less toxic substances)?						
g) other prevention activities?						
h) return-to-work?						
i) accommodating disabled employees?						
j) tying together all the programs in an overall						
document and setting out general policy and						
responsibilities?						
3. What systems are there to:						
a) collect, analyse and use illness, injury and						
near-miss data?						
b) collect, analyse and use hazard information?						
c) collect, analyse and use information collected						
during inspections, investigations, audits, etc.?						
4. Is the committee:						
a) included in all these tracking and analysing						
systems?						
b) all involved in worksite inspections, incident						
investigations and related follow-up?						
c) able to influence the planning of new processes,						
procedures and health and safety systems?						
d) able to influence the purchase of new equipment,						
chemicals, tools, and other materials?						
e) successfully identifying and priorizing <u>significant</u>						
hazards and problems (in all six categories)?						
f) unable to address some issues well?						
g) leaving issues unresolved?						
h) using the provisions of the Act and regulations						
to aid decisions and recommendations?						





Results cont'd

Yes	No	D/K	N/I	N/A	Specifics to follow up or inform discussion
:					
,	Yes				

What are three things your committee is doing well?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List the top three (3) improvements your committee should make in the next year.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



